- Holding shopping bonanza festival.

- Installation of touch screen kiosks to help passengers to browse through the range of merchandise, pricing and promotion.

Maintenance of Taj Mahal by private agencies

2507. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contract for maintaining the Taj Mahal has been entrusted to some private concern and not to Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor: and

(c) the terms and conditions of the agreement entered with the private concern for its maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India through the National Culture Fund has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Hotels Company Limited to provide financial assistance towards conservation, environmental development and improvement of tourist-related amenities at the Taj Mahal. The conservation measures identified under the MoU will be executed by the Archaeological Survey of India alone.

Tourist-related facilities and environmental development will be promoted directly by the donor under the terms and conditions laid down by the Archaeological Survey of India.

In the first phase of the project Rs.1.87 crores has been earmarked for conservation, chemical preservation and beautification of the Taj Mahal.